

Application No. 10/617,914
Amendment Dated: May 3, 2005,
Reply to Office Action of: February 16, 2005

In the Claims

1. (Currently Amended) A stabilizing clip for securing a hanger to a slatwall assembly, the hanger having upper and lower end portions, and the slatwall assembly having a plurality of spaced apart slats including upper, lower and middle slats, the upper and middle slats forming a uniform upper slot, and the lower and middle slats forming a uniform lower slot, the slats having front and rear walls and surfaces and upper and lower lips, each lip having an inside surface spaced between the front and rear surfaces of its slat, the upper and lower slots having a narrow portion with a predetermined width dimension proximal the front wall of the slats and a wider portion with a larger width dimension between the lips and rear wall of the slats, the hanger being secured to the upper slot, and said stabilizing clip comprising:

a body having resilient lower and upper portions that define narrow and offset portions, said narrow portion having a width dimension adapted to be substantially equal to the width dimension of the narrow portion of the lower slot, and said offset portion having an offset that combines with said narrow portion to form a width dimension adapted to be larger than the width dimension of the narrow portion of the lower slot, said resilient lower and upper portions being adapted to permitting said offset portion to flex and fit through the narrow portion and into the wider portion of the lower slot, said resilient lower portion having a lower leg being adapted to bias-biasingly to engage the upper lip of the lower slat and said resilient upper portion having an upper arm being adapted to bias-biasingly to engage the lower lip of the middle upper slat when said body is inserted into the lower slot, said offset portion having a forwardly facing surface adapted to engage the inside surface of one of either the upper and lower lips when said body is inserted into the lower slot, said arm and leg extending toward and engaging the rear wall

at spaced locations, said engagement of said body with the slats firmly securing said body to and between the slats; and,

a brace extending upwardly from said body, said brace having an inner surface adapted to be spaced from the front surface ~~of the front wall~~ of the middle slat to form a slot to receive the lower end portion of the hanger and hold the hanger against the middle slat to maintain the hanger in a set position.

2. (Currently Amended) The stabilizing clip of Claim 1, and wherein said resilient lower portion is spaced from said resilient upper portion, and said resilient lower portion forms a said lower leg and said resilient upper portion forms ~~an~~ said upper arm.

3. (Withdrawn) The stabilizing clip of Claim 3, and wherein the slatwall assembly has a rear wall, and said lower leg and upper arm extend toward and abut the rear wall at spaced locations.

4. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 3, and wherein said lower leg and upper arm have a predetermined length and said body has a front surface, and said front surface of said body is substantially flushly aligned with the front surfaces of the slats when said leg and arm abut the rear wall of the slatwall assembly.

5. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 2, and wherein said offset portion is a wider portion having a width dimension larger than the width dimension of the narrow portion of the lower slot.

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6. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 5, and wherein said wider portion of said body is snap fit through the narrow portion of the lower slot and into the wider portion of the lower slot.

7. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 2, and wherein said upper arm includes a spacer having opposed ends and a predetermined length, said opposed ends being snugly received between said lip of said middle slat and said rear wall of said slatwall assembly.

8. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 1, and wherein said inside surface of said brace is biased to a substantially parallel position with and presses the hanger against the front surface of the middle slat when said body is inserted into the lower slot.

9. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 1, and wherein said brace includes a riser and a shoulder, said shoulder forming a platform for supportably engaging the end of the lower portion of the hanger, said riser positioning said hanger and its stepped portion to more completely engage the inside surface of the lip of the upper slat.

10. (Currently Amended) The stabilizing clip of Claim 49, and wherein the hanger exerts a load on said shoulder of said brace, said body has a front wall, and said riser and said front wall are integrally joined and substantially planarly aligned and transfer the downward load to the upper lip of the lower slat.

11. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 1, and wherein said firm securement of said clip in the lower slot prevents the hanger from rotating to a release position.

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12. (Previously Amended) A stabilizing clip for securing a hanger to a slatwall assembly, the hanger having a bracket with first and second end portions for supporting the weight of an object, and the slatwall assembly having a plurality of spaced apart slats including first, second and third slats, the first and second slats forming a first slot, and the second and third slats forming a second slot, each slat having a surface and said first slat having a lower lip with an inside surface, the first end portion of the hanger being received by the first slot and the second end portion of the hanger positioned proximal the second slot, said stabilizing clip comprising:

a body shaped to securely fit into the second slot;

a riser extending from said body, said riser having a shoulder for supportably engaging the second end portion of the hanger, said riser positioning said hanger with its first end portion more fully engaging the inside surface of the lip of the first slat; and,

a brace extending upwardly from said body and having an inner surface that combines with said shoulder to form a third slot for receiving the lower end portion of the hanger and retain the hanger proximal the second slat.

13. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 12, and wherein said body has a front wall and the weight of the object is transferred from the hanger to said shoulder of said riser, and said riser and said front wall of said body are integrally joined and substantially planarly aligned to transfer the weight to the upper lip of the lower slat.

14. (Currently Amended) The stabilizing clip of Claim 12, and wherein each slat has front and rear surfaces and first and second opposed lips, and each lip has an inside surface adapted to be spaced between the front and rear surfaces of its slat, each of said first and second slots having a narrow portion with a predetermined width dimension proximal the front wall of the slats and a

wider portion with a larger width dimension adapted to be between the lips and rear wall of the slats; and,

wherein said body has resilient first and second portions that define narrow and offset portions, said narrow portion having a width dimension substantially equal to the width dimension of the narrow portion of the second slot and said offset portion having an offset that combines with said narrow portion to form a width dimension larger than the width dimension of the narrow portion of the second slot, said resilient lower and upper portions permitting said offset portion to flex and fit through the narrow portion and into the wider portion of the second slot.

15. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 14, and wherein said resilient lower portion is spaced from said resilient upper portion, and said resilient lower portion forms a lower leg and said resilient upper portion forms an upper arm.

16. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 15, and wherein the slatwall assembly has a rear wall, and said lower leg and upper arm extend toward and abut the rear wall at spaced locations.

17. (Original) The stabilizing clip of Claim 16, and wherein said lower leg and upper arm have a predetermined length and said body has a front surface, said front surface of said body being substantially flushly aligned with the front surfaces of the slats when said leg and arm abut the rear wall of the slatwall assembly.